01 FC:1253

Dated: December 27, 2005

PTO/SB/22 (12-04) Approved for use through 7/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE rk Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless if displays a valid OMB control number. **Docket Number (Optional)** ETHTON FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) 06005/39970 **FY 2005** (Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).) Filed March 1, 2004 **Application Number** 10/790,524-Conf. #2733 LOCKING MECHANISM FOR A THREADED CONNECTION Art Unit 3679 Examiner E. Garcia This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above identified application. The requested extension and fee are as follows (check time period desired and enter the appropriate fee below): Fee **Small Entity Fee** One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1)) \$120 \$60 \$ Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2)) \$450 \$225 Three months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3)) \$1020 \$510 \$ 1,020.00 Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4)) \$795 \$ \$1590 \$1080 \$ Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5)) \$2160 Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed. Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 13-2855 . I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet. I am the applicant/inventor. assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96). attorney or agent of record, Registration Number attorney or agent under 37 FR 1.34. Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 39,811 December 27, 2005 Date David C. Read (312) 474-6300 Telephone Number Typed or printed name NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below. Х Total of forms are submitted. 01/04/2006 FFANAIA2 00000021 10790524 1020.00 OP I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.Ø. Box 1450 (Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Signature:

(David C. Read)